

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /017 W

----- 116702

O 250907Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3738

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 4800

STADIS//////////

EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR GREEN FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, AS, US

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFO ON MILITARY ITEMS

REF: A) STATE 160346; B) USDAO CANBERRA 230355Z TO OSD(ISA)  
WASHDC; C) CANBERRA A-116 DATED 7/23/74; D) CANBERRA 1791

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS STATUS REPORT ON SUBJECTS REFERRED TO IN  
REF A PLUS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE USEFUL TO YOU IN  
YOUR MEETING WITH JCS JULY 26. END SUMMARY.

2. BAKER-NUNN CAMERA STATION NEGOTIATIONS: WE CANNOT NOW FORE-  
SEE WHEN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE DECISION ON THE BAKER-  
NUNN STATION. ONCE STATUS OF OUR EXISTING THREE MAJOR INSTAL-  
LATIONS HERE IS RESOLVED INAUGURATION OF NEW PROJECTS MIGHT BE  
CONCEIVABLE, ALTHOUGH OUR OWN PRIORITIES CERTAINLY ARGUE AGAINST  
PUSHING B-N AT THIS TIME. THE BAKER-NUNN STATION HAS NOT BEEN  
DISCUSSED IN THE PUBLIC REALM AND IS STILL BEING HANDLED ON  
CONFIDENTIAL BASIS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND STATE GOVERNMENT  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA WHERE STATION WOULD BE SITED. SIMILARITY OF  
B-N TO THE REJECTED SOVIET PROPOSAL SUGGESTS GOA WOULD NOW HAVE  
GREAT DIFFICULTY APPROVING IT.

3. AUSTRALIAN-SOVIET SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT: THIS  
AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN CANBERRA AT THE END OF FEBRUARY AND PRIME  
MINISTER WHITLAM WAS TO HAVE ANNOUNCED THE INAUGURATION OF SOME  
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ACTIVITIES UNDER IT DURING HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW SCHEDULED IN JUNE

BUT WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CANCELLED. THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS, HOWEVER, RECENTLY MADE A PRESS RELEASE GIVING A NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL LEVEL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN AND SOVIET SCIENTISTS WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL TAKE PLACE IN NEAR FUTURE (REFS C & D).

YOU WILL RECALL THE FLURRY OF ACTIVITY IN MARCH WHEN IT WAS PROPOSED BY THE SOVIETS THAT ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS AGREEMENT WOULD BE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPTICAL TRACKING STATION IN AUSTRALIA. THIS REQUEST WAS TURNED OFF BY THE PRIME MINISTER PERSONALLY IN PARLIAMENT APRIL 3.

4. PROJECT OMEGA: THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON OMEGA WERE CONCLUDED IN DECEMBER, 1973, AND ITS REPORT HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED AND IS READY FOR DISTRIBUTION. THE REPORT WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED AND AVAILABLE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. THE ELECTION OF MAY 18, HOWEVER, HAS DELAYED PRESENTATION OF THIS REPORT TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND TO THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT AS A BASIS FOR MAKING A DETERMINATION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OMEGA STATION HERE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL RECOMMEND GOA APPROVAL OF THIS STATION, BUT NO DATE IS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE. IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE STATION'S ESTABLISHMENT WILL BE VOCIFEROUSLY OPPOSED BY THE ALP LEFTWING AND A LEFT-WING ORGANIZATION CALLED "STOP OMEGA." WE HAVE REASON FOR OPTIMISM THAT RELEASE OF THE FACTUAL SENATE REPORT ON OMEGA WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THIS STATION TO BE ESTABLISHED IN AUSTRALIA.

5. NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP VISITS: WE HAVE MADE NO PROGRESS ON THIS SUBJECT FOR OVER TWO YEARS. THERE WERE INDICATIONS UNDER THE FORMER LIBERAL COUNTRY PARTY GOVERNMENT THAT PRIME MINISTER MCMAHON AFTER A VISIT TO WASHINGTON WOULD AT LAST BREAK LOOSE AUSTRALIAN APPROVAL TO RECOMMENCE THESE VISITS. THIS APPROVAL DID NOT EVENTUATE, HOWEVER, AND WE ARE ON DEAD CENTER WITH REGARD TO THE TWO MATTERS OF LIABILITY AND SAFETY. WE HAVE NOT RECENTLY PURSUED THIS SUBJECT IN LIGHT OF OTHER MORE CRITICAL MATTERS RELATING TO OUR MILITARY AND JOINT INSTALLATIONS HERE. OUR UNDERSTANDING ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE QUESTION OF LIABILITY AND SAFETY IS THAT THERE WILL HAVE TO BE SOME GIVE IN THE US POSITION, I.E., MODIFICATION OF THE US STANDARD STATEMENT, TO ACCOMMODATE AUSTRALIAN CONCERNS BEFORE THESE VISITS CAN BE RESUMED. WE UNDERSTAND THIS IS A BROADER PROBLEM INVOLVING NPW VISITS TO

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VARIOUS OTHER COUNTRIES IN ADDITION TO AUSTRALIA. IT MIGHT ALSO BE NOTED THAT ANY EARLY CONSIDERATION OF NPW VISITS TO AUSTRALIA WOULD HAVE TO OCCUR IN THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE OF EMOTIONAL CONCERN WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING, AND DURING THE GOA'S CASE BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COURT ON FRENCH ATMOSPHERIC TESTING.

6. HI STAR SOUTH: WE ARE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT WITH THE AUSTRALIANS FOR THIS PROGRAM OF THREE AEROBEE ROCKET LAUNCHES FROM THE WOOMERA

RANGE UNDER ARPA SPONSORSHIP SCHEDULED FOR EARLY SEPTEMBER. THERE ARE NO REMAINING SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES AT THIS STAGE AND WE EXPECT AUSTRALIAN INTERNAL PROCEDURES TO BE COMPLETED FOR THIS EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITHIN THREE WEEKS OR SO, I.E., IN PLENTY OF TIME BEFORE THE SCHEDULED LAUNCHES.

7. AMBERLEY TURNOVER: WE ARE LIKEWISE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT WITH THE AUSTRALIANS ON THE TURNOVER TO THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF THE EQUIPMENT AT THE AMBERLEY AFTAC INSTALLATION, ITS RELOCATION TO TENNANT CREEK, IN NORTHERN TERRITORY, AND ITS OPERATION BY THE ANU UNDER A USAF GRANT. OUR LATEST INFORMATION IS THAT THIS EQUIPMENT IS NOW IN TENNANT CREEK AND WILL SHORTLY BE INSTALLED THERE. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY DIFFICULTIES AT THIS STAGE IN CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOA FOR THIS TURNOVER.

8. MILITARY SALES: USDAO HAS PROVIDED IN REF B A DETAILED PROJECTION OF ITEMS WHICH DEFENCE MINISTER BARNARD WILL WISH TO

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ACTION EA-14

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O 250907Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3739

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CANBERRA 4800

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DISCUSS WITH USDOD OFFICIALS DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN LATE AUGUST. THESE INCLUDE FORTHCOMING PURCHASE OF TWO PATROL FRIGATES, AND CONSIDERATION OF PURCHASE OF UP TO EIGHT P-3 LONG RANGE MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT, AND UP TO 53 M60 TANKS WITH A POSSIBLE FOLLOW ON OF ABOUT 40 TANKS. HE WILL ALSO WANT TO DISCUSS THE M88 TANK RECOVERY VEHICLE. OUR DAO IS FAIRLY CONFIDENT OF AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN PURCHASE OF THE M60 AND BELIEVES THAT P-3 AIRCRAFT PURCHASE IS ALSO VERY POSSIBLE. DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE REFERENCED MESSAGE. BARNARD WILL BE VERY SENSITIVE TO FINANCIAL PROVISIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID

REPETITION OF F-111 COST ESCALATION. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT MR. BARNARD LOST HIS POSITION AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN AN ALP PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS MEETING AFTER THE MAY ELECTION. THIS DOES NOT AFFECT HIS ROLE AS DEFENCE MINISTER NOR SHOULD IT CAUSE ANY CONCERN WITH REGARD TO HIS BONA FIDES IN CONTRACTING FOR AUSTRALIAN PURCHASE OF US DEFENSE EQUIPMENT. HIS POSITION WITHIN THE PARTY, HOWEVER, HAS CHANGED CONSIDERABLY IN THE PAST SIX WEEKS AND CAN ONLY RESULT IN A DIMINUTION OF HIS PERSONAL INFLUENCE.

9. DEFENSE BUDGET: THE CURRENT LEVEL OF AUSTRALIA'S DEFENSE BUDGET IS ABOUT 2.9 PERCENT OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT. THIS IS A DECREASE FROM THE LEVEL OF 3.5 PERCENT UNDER THE FORMER LIBERAL COUNTRY PARTY GOVERNMENT. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN WERE A LIBERAL/COUNTRY PARTY GOVERNMENT IN POWER, THERE IS LITTLE BASIS FOR HOPING THAT THEY WOULD ALLOCATE ANY SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER PERCENTAGE TO DEFENSE THAN IS NOW THE CASE UNDER THE ALP GOVERNMENT. SEVERE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES WILL MAKE GOA MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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RELUCTANT THAN EVER TO SPEND ON DEFENSE IN THE NEXT BUDGET.

10. JOINT/COMBINED EXERCISES: ADOD PLACES A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANCE ON CONTINUING JOINT/COMBINED EXERCISES. MOD BARNARD HAS STATED HE INTENDS, UNDER THE LIMITED ADOD BUDGET, TO KEEP THE ARMED FORCES ABREAST OF THE MILITARY STATE OF THE ART THROUGH INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN SUCH EXERCISES. KANGAROO I, WHICH WAS HERALDED AS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE IMPORTANCE THE ADOD PLACES ON SUCH A EXERCISE. THE EXERCISE POINTED OUT THE WEAKNESS IN AUSTRALIAN MILITARY JOINT DOCTRINE AND THEIR LACK OF PREPAREDNESS FOR JOINT OPERATIONS. ALTHOUGH SOME MINOR PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION OCCURRED WITH THE FORCES OF OTHER PARTICIPATING NATIONS, THE COMBINED ASPECTS OF THE EXERCISE WERE A SUCCESS. THE MAJOR LESSONS LEARNED BY THE ADOD WERE THE NEED TO DEVELOP A MORE VIABLE JOINT DOCTRINE AND THE NEED TO CONSIDER MORE SERIOUSLY THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AMPHIBIOUS CAPABILITY.

11. INDAN OCEAN: AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN THE INDIAN OCEAN TAKES AT LEAST TWO DISTINCT FORMS. FIRST, AND PROBABLY OF MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN, IS THE PROTECTION OF FISHING AREAS FROM FOREIGN POACHERS. THE GOA IS SEEKING MEANS OF RESPONDING TO THE INCREASING DEMANDS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR PROTECTION FROM POACHERS. SECONDLY, GOA FINDS ITSELF IN QUANDARY BETWEEN ESPOUSED SUPPORT OF IOZP AND CONCERN FOR MAINTENANCE OF STABILITY IN THE AREA. INDIA'S RECENT ATTAINMENT OF NUCLEAR CAPABILITY FEEDS THIS QUANDARY, AS DOES THE FUTURE OF COCOS. INFORMED PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF COCOS TO THE DEFENSE OF AUSTRALIA; HOWEVER, PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM IS STRIVING TO DIVEST AUSTRALIA OF ANY COLONIAL IMAGE. WE WERE PLEASED THAT HE RECENTLY REAFFIRMED HIS INTENT TO CONTINUE TO ALLOW U.S. TO USE COCOS AS STAGING

BASE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RECONNAISSANCE AND NAVIGATION TRAINING  
FLIGHTS.

12. REORGANIZATION OF DOD REPRESENTATION IN CANBERRA. HOPE YOU  
WILL MENTION TO JCS YOUR CONTINUING CONCERN FOR RESOLUTION OF  
THIS QUESTION TO PERMIT ECONOMIES AND BETTER MANAGEMENT. WE  
ARE ENCOURAGED BY PROGRESS TO DATE (REDUCTION OF OFFICER  
POSITION FROM USSSO, TERMINATION OF PIO, AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEY  
BY CINCPAC OFFICERS ON BEHALF JCS). HOWEVER, MERGER OF  
CINCPACREP WITH DAO IS LOGICAL CONCLUSION AND WILL SET STAGE FOR  
CREATION OF REAL U.S. DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
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COORDINATING ENTIRE RANGE OF DEFENSE ACTIVITIES IN AUSTRALIA.  
ADMIRALS GAYLER AND DEPOIX HAVE AGREED TO THIS PLAN. BELIEVE  
THAT UNDER PRESSURE FROM COLLEAGUES AS WELL AS FROM YOU THAT CSAF  
WILL GO ALONG AND THAT OUR AIRCRAFT IS NOT REALLY THREATENED.  
HOWEVER, YOU CAN ALWAYS KEEP UP SLEEVE POSSIBILITY THAT USAFLO ONLY  
COULD BE SEPARATE. IN THIS CASE USAFLO WOULD NOT LOGICALLY BE  
AWARDED (AS CSAF EVIDENTLY PROPOSES) FUNCTIONS SUCH AS FMS AND  
EXCHANGE OFFICER PROGRAM NOW UNDER DAO. LATEST PROPOSAL WOULD  
IN FACT AGGRAVATE EXISTING SITUATION. WE HAVE NO CURRENT  
PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF FORTUNATE COINCIDENCE OF INDIVIDUALS. FOR  
THIS REASON NOW IS THE IDEAL TIME TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH  
ORGANIZATION WITH ALL OF OUR CURRENT OFFICERS IN AGREEMENT.

13. AUSTRALIAN FORCES IN SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA. GOA WILL  
REVIEW CONTINUED DEPLOYMENT OF TWO MIRAGE SQUADRONS AT BUTTERWORTH  
IN MAY 1975. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW THIS WILL COME OUT. FUTURE OF  
MINOR AUSTRALIAN LOGISTICAL AND NAVAL FORCES STILL IN SINGAPORE  
UNDER FPDA WILL DEPEND HEAVILY UPON UK DECISION REGARDING BRITISH  
DEPLOYMENT THERE.  
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## Message Attributes

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